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EXAMINER	
STERRETT, JONATHAN G	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3623	

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/609,714	HACK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jonathan G. Sterrett	3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *19 September 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-65* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-65* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed September 19, 2005. Applicant amended claims **1, 6, 21, 24, 26, 40, 55, 58 and 62.** Currently, claims **1-65** are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The claim rejections under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC 101 are withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

3. The applicant argues on page 19 that White and PRNewswire does not teach "providing on a display device coupled to a data processing system a business view depicting a plurality of interlocked polygons illustrating interactions between the participants, the polygons being positioned relative to each other to define the participants for the interaction".

The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner reiterates the position that the claimed invention as written is a picture or graph with drill down features displayed on a computer. The features of the "picture or graph" are further identified as to the information displayed and that the use is for assisting collaboration between participants, however the process steps for collaboration are not claimed. The technology of using a computer to display a picture or graph with drill down features is old and well known in the art (i.e., icons, URL links), however the Applicant insists the features are patentably distinct (i.e., interlocking polygons). As indicated in the previous Office Actions, the polygon shape of the graph

features is non-functional descriptive material and not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. A polygon by definition is any plane shape with straight sides, such as a triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, etc. A polygon, whatever shape it is, does not determine what the interactions are and who the participants are. It is merely a shape used for display purposes. In fact, as written, the interactions would not change if circles were used. Therefore, the shape was considered non-functional descriptive material. However, White (White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE]) does show a Web-based display with polygons linked to each other in a hyperbolic tree structure so users who wish to navigate quickly and drill down through a large number of information objects can do so with the least amount of effort (White: Para 15 and 22). White and PR Newswire (PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications, PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]) teach VIT SeeChain Portal, which is an enterprise information portal (EIP) that helps organize and find corporate information in the set of systems that constitute the business information supply chain. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging form the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of business information between trading partners. The users employ the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal. The hyperbolic tree paradigm used by this interface is faster to navigate and is capable of displaying considerably more information. The

hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection, and the user can right-click on a collaboration name to view the business information or to place an information delivery subscription order (White: Para 2, 22 and 32). Through the intuitive Web-based interface, VIT's SeeChain applications place actionable supply-chain measurement information at the fingertips of the business managers, executives, suppliers, and customers – across organizations, product lines and distribution centers. The Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain (PR Newswire: Para 1 and 5).

The applicant argues on page 21 that claim 24's limitations of "accepting into a data processing system, "certain kinds of information and "creating a collaboration for sharing a portion of the information accepted" are not taught by White nor PR Newswire.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

White teaches accepting information into a data processing system information (see paragraphs 2, 5 and 31). The information includes decisions, actions and associated analysis and reports which are stored in a collaborative processing system managed by groupware products. Since the information is managed by a groupware product, it provides for creating a collaboration for sharing a portion of the information accepted. –see also PRNewswire paragraph 1.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies

(i.e., "certain kinds of information" are accepted into a data processing system for creating a collaboration) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

The applicant argues on page 21 that claim 58 and 62's limitations of including 3 views are not taught by White, PR Newswire nor Flores et al.

The examiner respectfully disagrees.

In paragraphs 5, 22, 25 and 32 of White and in Flores et al.: col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 30, col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 7, lines 10-30, Flores et al. teaches a first view that shows the participants, interactions between the participants and defining the participants for the interactions.

In paragraphs 31 and 32, White teaches a second view showing the interaction data that is provided by users navigating the Business Information Directory by drilling down through collections of data by subject area and topic (i.e. interaction data).

In paragraph 9, White teaches a third view showing the system topology used by each participant. White teaches defining meta data relationships with the BID, these relationships providing a topological view to each participant (see paragraphs 21 and 22, which provide topological views that can be used by each participant). Flores et al., also teaches a third view representing topology used by each participant, as represent by business process maps (see column 2 line 1-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 1-13, 17-21, 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE]) in view of PR Newswire (PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications, PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]). White discloses a value chain optimization system and method comprising:

- **[Claim 1] providing on a display device coupled to a data processing system a business view depicting a plurality of interlocked polygons illustrating interactions between the participants, the polygons being positioned relative to each other to define the participants for the interactions** (Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.); and

- **identifying interaction data including at least one of the roles of the participants and information flow between the participants; and** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the

Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. Thus the information flow of between the participants is identified as interaction data);

- **electronically deriving an interaction view from the business view using said data processing system, the interaction view being provided on the display device and depicting the interaction data** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This electronic interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen (i.e. display device). The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners (i.e. interaction data).);

- **[Claim 6] rendering, using a data processing system, a first graphical depiction of a sequence of interactions between different ones of the participants, the depiction including polygons being juxtaposed to indicate the sequence and participants of each of the interactions** (Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.); and

- **identifying flow data including at least one of the roles of the participants and information flow between the participants; and** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID.

This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. Since trading partners are identified as exchanging information, flow data is identified as information flow between these participants.);

- **electronically rendering, using the data processing system, a second graphical depiction, derived from the first graphical depiction, of the flow data** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. .The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen (i.e. is electronically rendered). The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners, i.e. flow data.);

Regarding claim 1, White fails to teach wherein the business view and the interaction view assist collaboration between the participants in the business community; and as to claim 6, wherein the first graphical depiction and the second graphical depiction display collaboration between the participants in the business community. White does teach collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products (Para 2 and 5), however does not explicitly say between participants in the business community. PR Newswire explicitly teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain (Para 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate the collaboration between participants in the business community of PR Newswire with the teachings of White since White teaches the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners (Para 32). Both White and PR Newswire teach VIT SeeChain™ where White teaches the concept of the Enterprise Information Portal and what requirements an EIP should have (Para 8), and PR Newswire teaches an application of the product in the supply chain process so business managers can view the performance of the entire supply chain from supplier to customer (Para 3). Therefore, the motivation to combine is the two references are addressing the same product; the reasonable expectation of success is the demonstrated application and marketing of the product for supply chain monitoring; and all features of the claimed invention are taught or suggested.

- **[Claim 2] providing, in the business view, an indication of the benefits from the interactions** (White: Para 2, White teaches an EIP helps users organize and find corporate information.).

- **[Claim 3] providing a component view depicting a system topology used by each participant** (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).

- **[Claim 4] providing a component view includes depicting the availability of IT components** (Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other

corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).

- **[Claim 5] providing a component view includes depicting the activities of software components** (White: Para 25, White teaches SeeChain Portal provides a relational DBMS-based BID for storing metadata about collections (relational tables, reports, Web pages, etc,) that can be accessed via its Web-based Portal Agent information assistant. Meta data about transactional data sources, and source to target data mappings can be added to the BID.).

- **[Claim 7] rendering a third graphical depiction depicting a system topology used by each participant** (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).

- **[Claim 8] rendering the first graphical depiction includes representing a plurality of interactions depicted as interlocking polygons** (Para 22, and 24, White teaches the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).

- **[Claim 9] rendering the first graphical depiction includes vertically aligning representations of interactions involving one of the participants** (Para 22, and 24, White teaches the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).

- **[Claim 10] rendering the graphical depictions include vertically aligning representations of the business benefits, wherein the business benefits correspond to at least one participant** (Para 19, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches business users find the business information (i.e., collections) they are interested in. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of business information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).

- **[Claim 11] rendering the graphical depictions includes vertically aligning representations of quantifiable business benefits, wherein the quantifiable business benefits provide a basis for ROI calculations** (PR Newswire: Para 5 and 8, PR Newswire teaches that through an intuitive Web-Based interface, VIT's SeeChain applications place actionable supply-chain measurement information at the fingertips of business managers, executives, suppliers and customers – across organizations, product lines and distribution centers. SeeChain Demand Accuracy allows business managers to measure the accuracy of the sales forecast compared to the actual sales. The Examiner interprets financial information is measured.).

- **[Claim 12] producing a link from the first graphical depiction to the second graphical depiction** (Para 31, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen.).

- **[Claim 13] rendering the second graphical depiction includes providing additional information regarding interdependency of the participants** (White: Para 25, White teaches SeeChain Portal provides a relational DBMS-based BID for storing metadata about collections (relational tables, reports, Web pages, etc,) that can be accessed via its Web-based Portal Agent information assistant. Meta data about transactional data sources, and source to target data mappings can be added to the BID.).

- **[Claim 17] rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting features in the collaboration** (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where

decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

- **[Claim 18] rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting the availability of IT components** (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).

- **[Claim 19] rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting distributed and centralized systems** (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).

- **[Claim 20] the third graphical depiction is derived from the second graphical depiction and contains additional information regarding the collaboration between participants** (White: Para 5, White teaches executives can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like supply chain optimization. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow

business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

- **[Claim 21] identifying participants in the collaborative business scenario and activities of the participants; and** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. Since trading partners are identified as exchanging information, they are identified as participants and their activities are identified, i.e. as trading partners.);

- **electronically displaying a first view, using a data processing system, the view including a plurality of interlocking polygons depicting the activities of the participants in transactions, wherein the polygons corresponding to each participant are vertically aligned and business benefits of the collaborative business scenario are shown in a vertical arrangement** (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) electronic interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.) and

- **business benefits of the collaborative business scenario are shown in a vertical arrangement** (White: Para 5, White teaches executives can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like supply chain optimization. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

Claims 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55 substantially recite the same limitations as that of **claims 6-13 and 17-21** with the distinction of the recited method being a system and computer readable medium. Hence the same rejection for **claims 6-13 and 17-21** as applied above applies to **claims 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55**.

6. **Claims 14-16, 22-25, 34-36, 48-50 and 56-65** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **White** and **PR Newswire** in view of over **Flores** U.S. **5,630,069**.

White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE

PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications, PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]

Regarding **claim 14**, White and PR Newswire disclose a value chain optimization system and method but fail to teach where rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting a sequence of activities.

Flores et a. teach workflow maps that highlight what work is performed in serial and what work is performed in parallel (Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate the workflow maps of Flores et al. with the teachings of White and PR Newswire since PR Newswire teaches collaboration across the total supply chain (Para 1).

Being able to measure gives managers the ability to act to improve the overall operational performance. The VIT SeeChain™ family of supply chain performance measurement applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain, so they can proactively measure, monitor and exceed supply chain performance objectives. They complement existing investments in supply chain planning and enterprise applications by leveraging these operations systems to measure, see and act on key performance indicators across the entire supply chain (PR Newswire: Para 1). An important part of a workflow analyst's work is the development of business process maps, with which the analyst and his/her client can readily see and interpret the structure of a business process, and identify quickly areas for clarification or improvement. Workflow maps highlight business process features such as the condition of satisfaction of both internal and external customers (Flores et al.: col. 1, lines 59-63, and col. 2, lines 9-12).

White, PR Newswire, and Flores et al. teach a business processes (i.e. supply chain), measurement (i.e. condition for satisfaction) and action for improvement, therefore, giving managers the ability to act to improve overall operational performance.

- **[Claim 15] rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting information sharing between participants** (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 6, lines 62-64, Flores et al. teach a business process is a network of workflows linked together that represent the recurrent process by which an organization performs and completes work, delivers products and services and satisfies customers. Specifically, a workflow is a structured set of acts between customers and performers organized to satisfy the customer's conditions of satisfaction.).

- **[Claim 16] rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting roles in the collaboration** (Flores et al.: col.2, lines 9-14, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight business process features such as the roles of process participants.).

- **[Claim 22] displaying a second view including participants of the collaborative business scenario** (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 6, lines 62-64, Flores et al. teach a business process is a network of workflows linked together that represent the recurrent process by which an organization

performs and completes work, delivers products and services and satisfies customers. Specifically, a workflow is a structured set of acts between customers and performers organized to satisfy the customer's conditions of satisfaction.);

- **activities of the participants illustrated as interlocking polygons** (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship. Flores et al.: col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teach business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Conditional links are indicated with a diamond icon. Links define dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.);

- **information flow between the participants illustrated as lines linking the interlocking polygons** (Flores et al. col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teach business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Links define dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.); and

- **connectors illustrating a direction of document exchange**. (Flores et al. col. 1 lines 19-25 and line 64 through to col. 2, line 8, col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teaches business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Links define

dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.).

- **[Claim 23] a system topology at a business site of one of the participants** (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).

- **[Claim 24] accepting, into a data processing system, information identifying a collaborative business, participants in the collaborative business, and activities of the participants** (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-31, and col. 4, lines 22-52, Flores et al. teach the workflow server is the heart of the workflow system. Workflow maps highlight the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers.);

- **identifying functionality of the activities** (Flores et al.: col.2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teaches business process mapping that displays the relationships among workflows, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process.);

- **identifying at least one of the roles of the participants and information flow between the participants;** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the

exchange of information between trading partners. Thus the information flow between the participants is identified);

- **identifying system requirements used to implement the collaborative business** (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners.);

- **identifying quantitative and qualitative business benefits based on a collaboration between participants** (Flores et al.: Col. 2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight cycle times for the process and the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers. The examiner interprets cycle time as a quantitative benefit and conditions of satisfaction as qualitative.);

- **identifying an industry and corresponding solution maps relating to the collaborative business** (Flores et al.: Abstract, Flores et al. teach the method and system of creating workflow maps of business processes provides consultants, business process analysts, and application developers with a unified tool with which to conduct business process analysis, design, and documentation. The examiner interprets consultants to be associated with various industries such as service and manufacturing industries.); and

- **creating, in a data processing system, a collaboration for sharing a portion of the information accepted** (PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 3, lines 1-23, and col. 4, lines 22-52, Flores et al. teach the workflow server is the heart of the workflow system. The system is used to shorten the cycle time of producing workflow-enabled applications that allow users and managers to participate in and manage business processes.).

- **[Claim 25] the participants include consumers, enterprises, or electronic marketplaces** (PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric

applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. The Examiner interprets the participants are associated with an Enterprise.).

- **[Claim 58] providing on a display device coupled to a data processing system, a first view showing the participants, interactions between the participants, and defining the participants for the interactions** (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship. Flores et al.: col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 30, col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 7, lines 10-30, Flores et al. teach a business process map is a graphical representation of a business process, which shows its workflows and their relationships. Business process maps display the relevant information about each workflow-the customer, the performer, the conditions of satisfaction and the cycle time. Workflow maps highlight the role of process participants, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process; what work is performed in serial; what work is performed in parallel. A graphical user interface in a computer system is utilized. Typically, a workflow map, as it appears on a monitor in a size suitable for comfortable viewing, is larger than the screen. For this reason, horizontal and vertical scroll bars allow the user to scroll through the entire map.);

- **identifying interaction data including at least one of the roles of the participants and information flow between the participants; and** (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. Since trading partners are identified as exchanging information, the information data exchanged between them is identified as interaction data between the participants.);

- **electronically providing on the display device, using the data processing system, a second view showing the interaction data** (White: Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface (i.e. electronically provided) offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners (i.e. their interaction data). Flores et al.: col.2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teaches business process mapping that displays the relationships among workflows, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process.); and

- **providing on the display device, using the data processing system, a third view showing a system topology used by each participant** (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.), The topology is also taught by Flores et al., as the business process maps provide a topology that is used by each participant.

- **wherein the first, second, and third views assist collaboration between the participants in the business community** (White: Para 2 and 5, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

- **[Claim 59] providing a first view comprises providing a first graphical view showing business benefits and value potential in addition to the participants, interactions between the participants, and defining the participants for the interactions** (PR Newswire: Para 3, PR Newswire teaches VIT's application can span multiple applications and enterprises, allowing business managers to view the performance of the entire supply chain from supplier to customer. White: Para 4, White teaches executives

can be notified quickly about information that requires urgent action, while business analysts can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like financial analysis, fraud detection, or supply chain optimization. Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-12, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers.).

- **[Claim 60] providing a second view comprises providing a second graphical view showing roles of the participants and details of the interactions in addition to the sequence of the interactions** (Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 1-31, Flores et al. teach business process maps display the relationship among workflows. Workflow maps highlight the roles of process participants.).

- **[Claim 61] providing a third view comprises providing a third graphical view showing availability of IT components** (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it t o be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).

Claims 34-36, 48-50, 56-57 and 62-65 substantially recite the same limitations as that of claims 14-16, 22-23 and 58-61 with the distinction of the recited method being a system, computer readable medium and another method. Hence the same rejection for claims 14-16, 22-23 and 58-61 as applied above applies to claims 34-36, 48-50, 56-57 and 62-65.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan G. Sterrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6881. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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